Summer
1988

Urban Horticulture Presents

Vol. 5, No. 3

Center for Urban Horticulture / Washington Park Arboretum / University of Washington

CENTER NEWS

Those lazy, hazy days of summer are upon us. After a busy spring of gardening activities including all those plant sales, classes, lectures, and flower shows, it's time to enjoy summer.

If you have time, drop by for one of the Washington Park Arboretum tours. Don't forget to check out the horticultural gifts at the Gift Shop in the Graham Visitors Center. And for even more fun, drop by the Miller Horticultural Library at CUH to browse the new books.

Have a great summer and if we don't see you now, we'll look forward to seeing you this fall.

—John A. Wott
Professor, Continuing Education

Staffing Changes

Ms. Lynda J. Ransley will become Coordinator of Urban Horticulture Continuing Education and Public Service at the Washington Park Arboretum Graham Visitors Center in early July. Ms. Ransley is completing an M.S. degree at the University of Delaware as a Longwood Graduate Program participant. Previously, she completed a B.S. (with distinction in plant science) from Cornell University and has been both an educational and horticulture intern at Scott Arboretum.

Mr. Scot Medbury has assumed a full-time assistantship in CUH, as of April 1, 1988. Mr. Medbury will assume planning and coordination of the Urban Horticulture courses and will manage the weekend activities at the Graham Visitors Center. He replaces Mr. Tom Kuykendall who is completing his M.S. and will leave in May for further study in Australia.

Douglas Conservatory

You may have noticed—the new J. F. and Neva B. Douglas Conservatory and Greenhouses are nearly complete. The Conservatory will contain an educational classroom, plant growth chambers, shop, potting area, and mechanical equipment for the greenhouses. A special opening will be held this fall. The new parking area will more than double our parking capacity.

Miller Library News

Gardening During Drought, a list of books and articles on water-saving strategies and drought-tolerant plants is now available in the Library. Twenty-five books are listed, all of which are available in the Library, and over 60 articles have been collected for public use. Also, our booklist on pest control has been updated and now lists more than 50 references. These and many other booklists are available free in the Library.

A gift for the Library Book Fund from the Northwest Horticultural Society will make possible the purchase of many new titles on Chinese gardens, gardening with children, and essential flora and monographs. A new subscription to "HORT ABSTRACTS" has also been added.

Another gift, *The Sichuan Rhododendrons of China,* was presented by the Madison Park Garden Club in memory of Marvin Black; and *Wild Flowers of Central Saudi Arabia* was presented by Mrs. Shirley Merendino.

Plants from Around the World

Members of the CUH Faculty and Staff have been exploring for plants in unusual places. Professor Clement Hamilton and Graduate Assistant Sarah Reichard spent nearly 6 weeks exploring for plants in the winter rain regions of Chile. Timothy Hohn, Curator of the Living Collections, spent a month in New Zealand exploring possibilities for a New Zealand Garden as part of the Christchurch-Seattle Sister-City Program.

Arboretum Guides

A new group of volunteer guides has completed 14 weeks of training and has joined our growing group of Arboretum guides. Several experienced guides also participated. Included were: Alec Bayless, Betty Binder, Gayle Bodorff, Michael Brokaw, Matt Cornwall, Jeannine Curry, Pat Danford, Laurel Dolk, Sandra Farler, Tom Grayson, Jean Haigh, Robert Lile, Carol Lundberg, Virginia Marshall, Ione Nelson, Karen Panek, Mary Pinkham, Ronald Ratko, Joyce Rather, Michael Spurzem and Pat Streeter. Watch for another new class this fall!

PUBLIC LECTURE SERIES

*One-hour lectures covering a wide range of horticultural interests.

*$1.00 parking and service fee will be charged for lectures held at the Center for Urban Horticulture; please do *not* park on the street.

Brown-Bag Garden Talks

First and third Wednesdays of each month, 12:10 to 12:50 p.m. Usually held at the HUB; call for details.

Enjoy these FREE informal lectures, walks, and demonstrations during your lunch hour. Jointly sponsored by the Center for Urban Horticulture and the Washington State University Master Gardeners.

How to Make a Potpourri—Bottling the Fragrance of Your Garden

July 6
by Judy Evans, WSU Master Gardener

Culinary and Fragrant Hebs—Beyond the Basics

July 20
by Elaine Keehn, WSU Master Gardener

Campus Tree Walk—The Oaks

August 3
by Van Bobbitt of the Center for Urban Horticulture

Trees and Shrubs of the Medicinal Herb Garden

August 17
by Scot Medbury, Friends of the Medicinal Herb Garden

The Master Gardener

Second Friday of each month, 7:30 p.m., at the Center for Urban Horticulture.

Practical gardening information presented by the Washington State University Master Gardeners.

Organic/Biological Vegetable Gardening

July 8
by Pat Campbell Kush

Learn how to manage the tilth and fertility of your soil with organic amendments, and discover sources of these materials. Biological controls for common vegetable pests will also be covered.

Garlic Growing

August 12
by Linda Swanson

"A ruffian with a heart of gold," garlic has been simultaneously praised and scorned for centuries. Linda Swanson, a producer of organically grown garlic, will discuss its history and uses. More importantly, she will tell you how to grow bumper crops of this sometimes temperamental plant.

Northwest Flower and Garden Show

Yes, all the rumors are true. An ultra extravaganza, the Northwest Flower and Garden Show will be held President's Day Weekend, February 17–20, 1989 in the new Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle.

Like the successful Boston and Philadelphia Flower Shows, this show will consist of three parts:

—demonstration gardens ranging from patio plantings to massive landscapes

—competitions by local horticultural and garden clubs

—retail exhibits by florists, greenhouses, nurseries, etc.

There will also be exhibits by plant societies, as well as a full array of horticultural educational activities

So mark your calendars now!

Hort Forum

In early February, representatives of 15 area horticultural organizations spent a Saturday morning learning about each other, while discussing the successes and failures of fundraising. As in the past, the group found the ideas gained from other groups almost overwhelming. If your organization hasn't participated in the past, stay tuned for the next session.

Horticulture Field Day

A perfect day for nearly 200 area vocational horticulture students from 12 Puget Sound schools turned even more perfect on April 26, 1988. These young men and women participated in the Second Annual Horticulture Field Day. Cosponsored by W.A.L.P., Washington Association of Landscape Professionals, the group competed in twelve events such as line-trimming, tree planting, sod laying, and patio building. Contractors furnished all the materials, and coordinated the events, including scoring. This offered a great forum for exchange between professionals and young people. Schools participating were Mt. Si, Snoqualmie; Interlake, Bellevue; Franklin Pierce, Tacoma; Nathan Hale, Seattle; Lynnwood; Cascade, Everett; Lakewood; Tahoma, Kent; Auburn; White River, Buckley.

Continuing Education Staff

John A. Wott, professor
Van M. Bobbitt, coordinator
Jan Davis, program assistant (CUH)
Cheri Singer, program assistant (WPA)
Karen Krager, program assistant (WPA)
Rebecca Johnson, program aide
Scot Medbury, graduate assistant

Telephones
CUH—545–8033
9 a.m.–4:30 p.m. weekdays

WPA—543–8800
10 a.m.–4 p.m. weekdays
Noon–4 p.m. weekends, holidays

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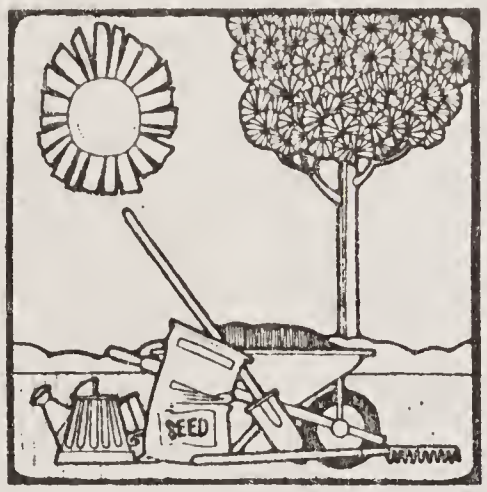

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour **2 p.m. CUH** Cactus Society	20 **7 p.m. CUH** Kew Gardens	21	22 **10 a.m. WPA** Explorers' Walk	23	24	25
26 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	27	28	29	30		

JULY

					1	2
3 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	4	5	6 **12:10 p.m. HUB** Potpourri	7	8 **7:30 p.m. CUH** Organic Gardening	9 **10 a.m. WPA** How Plants Grow
10 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	11	12	13	14 **7 p.m. CUH** Lilies & Peonies	15	16 **8:30 a.m. CUH** Lilies Tour **1 p.m. WPA** A.F. Center Circle 'Perennials'
17 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	18	19	20 **12:10 p.m. HUB** Herbs	21 **9 a.m. CUH** Mercer Island Garden Tour	22	23
24 **? noon CUH** S. Bonsai Assn. **1 p.m. WPA** Sunday at One Tour	25	26 **7 p.m. CUH** A.W.L.	27 **10 a.m. WPA** Explorers' Walk	28 **8 a.m. CUH** Specialty Nursery Tour	29	30
31 **1 p.m. WPA** Sunday at One Tour						

AUGUST

	1	2	3 **12:10 p.m. HUB** Campus Tree Walk	4 **7 p.m. CUH** Old Fashioned Plants	5	6
7 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	8	9	10	11	12 **7:30 p.m. CUH** Garlic Growing	13
14 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	15	16 **9:30 a.m. CUH** City of Destiny Tour	17 **12:10 p.m.** Medicinal Herb Garden	18 **7 p.m. CUH** Designing the Fall Garden	19	20
21 **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	22	23	24 **10 a.m. WPA** Explorers' Walk	25	26	27 **8:30 a.m. CUH** Plant Physiology Seminar
28 **9 a.m. CUH** Plant Physiology Seminar **1 p.m. WPA** Sundays at One Tour	29	30	31			

CUH = Center for Urban Horticulture WPA = Washington Park Arboretum HUB = Husky Union Building * = Fee

URBAN HORTICULTURE COURSES

How Plants Grow! Propagation for Children 7–10

Discover what happens when you plant a seed, and how new plants grow from only a piece (cuttings). Students will also learn the correct way to plant a seedling and will bring home young starts, which should grow into beautiful flowers. Bring a 8 oz. jar with you to class; all other materials will be provided.

INSTRUCTOR: Jean Haigh
DATE: Saturday, July 9, 10 a.m. to 12 noon
FEE: $10 (includes materials)

Garden Royalty: Lilies and Peonies

Lilies and peonies were planted and revered centuries ago . . . they offer grandeur and elegance to perennial and shrub borders, persisting for decades. Fall is ideal planting time, but midsummer is the time to study their bloom and make your selections. Learn to grow these classic flowers! This course covers cultural requirements, choices of fine varieties, nursery sources, plus the use of lilies in deck and patio containers.

INSTRUCTOR: Mary Robson
DATE: Thursday, July 14, 7 to 9 p.m.
FEE: $10

Tour of "B & D Lilies," Port Townsend, WA

The lily's reign continues! Bob and Diana Gibson of Port Townsend's "B & D Lilies" propagate species and hybrid lilies for shipment worldwide. They specialize in the retrieval of lost "heritage" lilies through tissue culturing. Enjoy this remarkable lily resource when the fields are bright with color, meet the owners, and order your favorites for your own garden. Fee includes transportation and ferry costs.

TOUR LEADER: Mary Robson
DATE: Saturday, July 16, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
FEE: $35 (includes transportation)

Mercer Island Garden Tour

You will see four distinct gardens, whose owner's interests and personalities are reflected in the plants they use—perennials, roses, edibles, uncommon trees and shrubs—and in the way they use them. But best of all, you will return with a wealth of new ideas for improving your own garden. Transportation will be provided from the Center for Urban Horticulture, with a pick-up on Mercer Island (by special arrangement).

TOUR LEADERS: Becky Johnson and Van Bobbitt
DATE: Thursday, July 21, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
FEE: $18 (includes transportation)

Specialty Nursery Tour

Join CUH staff as they visit small specialty nurseries north and east of Seattle. These nurseries, some of which are open by appointment only, specialize in some of the hard-to-find garden plants. Transportation will be provided from the Center for Urban Horticulture.

TOUR LEADERS: Van Bobbitt and Becky Johnson
DATE: Thursday, July 28, 8 a.m. to 3 p.m.
FEE: $18 (includes transportation)

Old Fashioned Plants

Over the centuries, tastes in plant use and selection have changed as often as changes in fashion. Study the plant fashions from the 16th century to the present, and learn how to create an authentic period garden using antique plants. Nursery sources will also be discussed.

INSTRUCTOR: Kevin Nicolay
DATE: Thursday, August 4, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
FEE: $10

REGISTRATION FORM

Urban Horticulture Courses—Preregistration Required

COURSE	FEE	NAME(S)	TOTAL
			$

CHECK ENCLOSED FOR $_____

Checks payable to University of Washington. No bank cards. Registrations filled in order received. Limited class enrollment; classes fill rapidly, so register early.

Refunds: Requests must be in writing or in person. Requests received prior to first class meeting have a $3.00 handling fee deducted. No refunds after first class meeting.

NAME_____ Phone: Day_____ Evening_____

ADDRESS_____
Street City State ZIP Code

Mail payment and registration to:
Urban Horticulture Courses, GF–15
University of Washington
Seattle, Washington 98195

A Gift of Learning: Give a gift certificate in the amount of one of the courses. Call Jan Davis for details (545–8033).

Mailing List Update

If you would like to continue receiving this newsletter, *check the date on your address label.* If your label is dated prior to June 1, 1987, *your name will be removed from* our list *UNLESS* you return the form (below) now, or call 545–8033.

Please keep my name on the mailing list. Attach mailing label or write:

Name_____

Address_____

City_____ State_____ ZIP Code_____

MAIL TO: Continuing Education, Center for Urban Horticulture, GF–15, University of Washington, Seattle, WA 98195.

"City of Destiny" Garden Tour

Tacoma is home to many beautiful gardens and Olmsted-designed parks. Take a late summer stroll through the new Skupen Woodland Garden at Puget Park, visit the exquisite conservatory in Wright Park, and experience the Northwest's finest native plants garden at Pt. Defiance. Transportation provided from the Center for Urban Horticulture, with a pick-up in Federal Way (by special arrangement).

TOUR LEADER: Scot Medbury
DATE: Tuesday, August 16, 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
FEE: $18 (includes transportation)

Designing the Fall Garden: Tasks and Joys

August is the ideal month to plan fall strategies for perennial flower gardens. There's still time to order fall-planted spring flowering bulbs; we'll explore excellent sources for them. Learn how to organize a calendar for fall maintenance and soil improvements. We will also consider techniques to extend the perennial bloom season far into fall, including the use of fall and early winter blooming flowers and shrubs.

INSTRUCTOR: Mary Robson
TIME: Thursday, August 18, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.
FEE: $10

An Inside View of How Plants Grow: Practical Plant Physiology

Jointly sponsored by the American Rose Society and the Center for Urban Horticulture.

INSTRUCTOR: Dr. Barbara Smit, assistant professor, Center for Urban Horticulture, University of Washington
WHO: Open to all gardeners
WHEN: August 26, 27, and 28
WHERE: Center for Urban Horticulture
REGISTRATION: $75. Fee includes instructional materials, coffee and snacks, Friday evening reception, and Saturday luncheon. *Registration forms and seminar outline may be obtained from the Center for Urban Horticulture.* Preregistration is required by July 25.
This is part of a nationwide series of seminars sponsored by the American Rose Society to promote advanced knowledge of horticultural science among rosarians and other horticulturists.

The Tree Place

Timothy Hohn

Before delving into an exploration of the diverse and interesting collections of the Washington Park Arboretum a review of the purpose of the Arboretum and its plant collections and how they serve the public is in order.

The name "arboretum" comes from the Latin *arbor,* meaning tree, and *etum,* a suffix which designates the place of a thing thus together meaning "the tree place" or "where the trees grow." However, this definition does not begin to tell the whole story. An arboretum shares many traits common to other institutions but can only be categorized as a museum. In its simplest terms, an arboretum can be defined as: a living museum of woody plants for the purpose of display, education, research, and conservation.

The plant collections at the Washington Park Arboretum and Center for Urban Horticulture are relevant to the professional and amateur horticulturist in all four areas of purpose. The entire collection is on permanent display for casual inspection and comparison. Passive education is made possible by comprehensive labeling of the collections, the availability of interpretive brochures, and prearranged access to plant records. More organized and comprehensive educational opportunities based on the collections are available through educational programs offered at the Arboretum and the Center. The collections, by their very existence, serve to conserve plants which might otherwise be unavailable in the region for access by interested horticulturists and the general public.

Furthermore, plant taxa are better conserved if they are broadly distributed, therefore, it is possible for individuals, commercial concerns, and public horticultural institutions to obtain propagules from the collection by request through the curator's office or the Index Seminum. The deliberate search for and acquisition of plants for culture and evaluation in a region where they were heretofore unknown is a useful form of research, provided the information is made available to those who wish to use it.

Root Development in Urban Soils

Dr. Barbara Smit

Urban planting sites are often compacted due to poor soils, traffic patterns, and construction practices. The bulk density of soil in tree pits in Washington, D.C., was found to range from 1.7 g/cc to 2.2 g/cc (this compares to the bulk density of brick of 1.4–2.3 g/cc).

Compaction affects root growth through mechanical impedance and restriction of oxygen and water availability. These factors affect root morphology and distribution in the soil profile. Roots grown in compacted and/or low oxygen environments are thicker, shorter, and oftentimes more branched. They tend to be distributed mainly in the upper portion of the soil. In one study, 70% of the total root length of *Gleditsia triacanthos* var. *inermis* seedlings was found in the upper 12 cm of the compacted soil compared to 40% or less in noncompacted soil. In fact, roots which were placed at lower levels at planting time grew upward toward the soil surface before proliferating. Overall root development was restricted by more than 50% in the compacted, low oxygen soils as compared to normal sites.

There are several implications from these data for the planting and care of landscape trees. If the planting site cannot be improved to provide a more favorable root environment, trees should be planted at a shallow depth in compacted soils to encourage rapid establishment. A wider planting hole should be dug to allow adequate space for the root system since it is restricted in its vertical development. Cultural practices around the tree base (e.g., turf care) should be modified to minimize damage to the shallow root system. And foot traffic around these trees should be restricted whenever possible. Finally, trees that are known to develop shallow root systems may be more successful under these conditions. Hopefully, further research will better characterize the limitations of urban sites and aid us in developing better criteria for plant selection and care.

Adapted in part from Gilman et al. 1987, *Journal of Environmental Horticulture* 5:33–37.

WASHINGTON PARK ARBORETUM

Summer's palette holds a hundred shades of green dotted with the blooms of *Cornus kousa* (summer-flowering dogwood), *Magnolia grandiflora*, and *Stewartia*, among others. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the shade of full summer before or after one of the following FREE tours. Tours begin at the Graham Visitors Center. Reservations are not required.

The Graham Vistors Center is open weekdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and weekends, noon to 4 p.m. If you have any extra time, we could use weekend volunteers (especially on Saturday). Call 543–8800 for information.

TOURS

Sunday at One

Every Sunday at 1 p.m. guided tours begin at the Graham Visitors Center. Knowledgeable guides will enrich your understanding of old favorites as well as introduce you to new aspects of the Arboretum's collections.

Explorers' Walks

An Arboretum plant expert leads 2-hour walking tours for plant enthusiasts the fourth Wednesday of every month from 10 a.m. to noon.

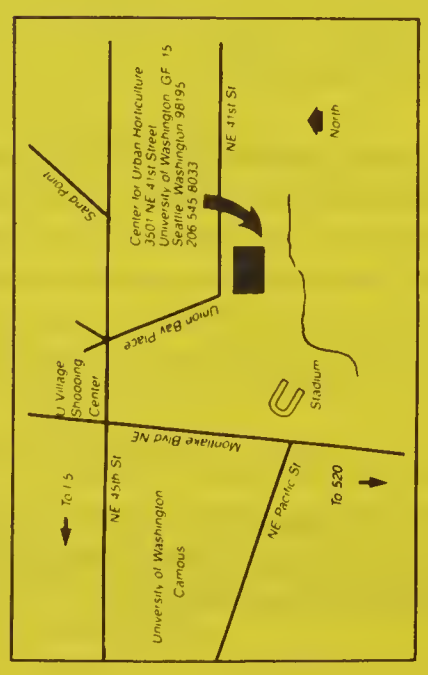
Group Tours

Special guided tours for school groups, garden clubs, and other organizations can be arranged *with three weeks' advance notice.* Call 543–8800 for details.

Do You Have Sick Plants

Washington State University Master Gardeners will be at the Graham Visitors Center every Saturday and Sunday, 12 noon to 4 p.m., to answer your gardening questions. If you have a sick plant, bring in a sample of the damage for diagnosis. Master Gardeners can also provide WSU-approved recommendations for controlling garden pests.

Urban Horticulture Presents...



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